

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Lieutenant Christopher Morlan

Firefighter Michael Pittman

Firefighter Brandyn Thomas

On May 19, 2011, Rescue Squad 3 was alerted for an apartment fire with the report of a woman trapped on the second floor. Arriving on the scene, they found heavy fire shooting out of several second-story windows in the rear of the structure, and numerous occupants waving for help from the roof of the adjoining building.

Lieutenant Christopher Morlan advised communications of a working fire and reported that the crew was attempting to make rescues on the Bravo side of the structure. The crew, consisting of Lieutenant Christopher Morlan, Firefighter Michael Pittman and Firefighter Brandyn Thomas, erected a 24-foot extension ladder to the roof and immediately began rescuing the residents. During the rescue efforts, a bystander informed the crew of a woman at a window crying out for help on the Charlie side of the structure. Lieutenant Morlan directed the crew to continue with the rescues from the roof and ran to check on the woman.

On the Charlie side of the structure, he found heavy fire venting out of the window in question, but no woman in distress. He immediately forced an exterior door and gained entrance to the apartment building. Alone and without the protection of a hoseline, he entered the first floor of the apartment and made his way to the second floor in search of the trapped woman.

Midway up the staircase, Lieutenant Morlan was met with moderate heat conditions and diminished visibility. Pushing up onto the second floor he found heavy fire coming down the hallway from several rooms in the back of the apartment, which forced him to crawl on his stomach as he searched for the trapped woman. Finding no victim in the rear of the apartment, the Lieutenant backed down the hallway and continued to search the front of the apartment.

With all civilians rescued from the rooftop, Firefighters Pittman and Thomas entered the second floor of the apartment with a ground ladder and joined Lieutenant Morlan in the primary search of the apartment. Completing the search

and finding no victims, the crew worked to open up and ventilate the apartment as the engine crew worked to extinguish the fire. Later, it was discovered that the woman had managed to escape via a window onto the rooftop as crews were arriving on the scene.

The incredible teamwork of Lieutenant Christopher Morlan, Firefighter Michael Pittman, and Firefighter Brandyn Thomas directly resulted in the successful rescue of those five citizens from the rooftop.

For their efforts that day, they are being awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation. Well done team. We congratulate all of you!